

May 4, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

7463 '99 MAY 10 10:05

Re: Docket #98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing concerning the fact that consumers should not be misled into believing that food has not been irradiated. I strongly support the recommendation by the Center for Science in the Public Interest regarding labeling of irradiated foods. Like other labels, irradiation labels are required by FDA to be truthful and not misleading. To only label food with the word "pasteurized" is misleading. It should not be a replacement or grouped meaning for something that is also "radiated" or "irradiated." Pasteurization and radiation are completely different processes. I am already skeptical enough about radioactive material entering the food chain due to Superfund site sludge used as fertilizers on fields. As a consumer, I should have the right to know how my food is treated. And I should have a right to not support the nuclear industry by not eating food they helped irradiate.

The requirement for irradiation disclosure (both label and radura) should not be expired at any time in the future. The symbol should be clearly understandable at the point of purchase for everyone. It should be large, readily visible, and contain information regarding the processing of contents. If there is no label, consumers will be misled into believing the food has not been irradiated.

The FDA should be concerned about the American health. You recommend to us certain daily servings of meat, fruit, vegetables, etc, but if irradiation is destroying vitamins and so forth, these serving sizes are no longer viable. It seems we would need to eat three times the daily serving to get the sufficient amount of nutrition if we were consuming irradiated food. Has this been studied? Also, has there been any long term studies done on meat potentially having higher levels of carcinogenic benzene from irradiation or studies on any other kind of radiolytic products in irradiated food?

I would like to be acknowledged that my comments have been received. Perhaps all the comments can be posted on the Internet so that the public can be informed on who is participating.

Sincerely,

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